

REMARKS

Claims 1-6 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 based on Hellebusch U.S. Patent No. 3,753,270. Applicant respectfully disagrees with this position of the Examiner and asks for reconsideration.

An important feature of the device of the Applicant is that the fish being cleaned can be automatically flipped over onto its other side without even being touched. This is accomplished by a dual pivoting construction. First, the arms (34) are pivotally connected to the base (32), and a clamp (44) is carried by a cross member (42) and is pivotable relative to the arms. With a fish engaged by the clamp, as shown in Fig. 2, the rotation of the arms on the base and the rotation of the clamp relative to the arms with the fish still being held by the clamp, automatically flips the fish over as shown in Fig. 3.

Claims 1 and 7 have been amended to better describe these features of the invention of the Applicant, and other editorial changes have been made to some of the claims. In addition, a new claim 13 has been added. It is believed that claims 1-13 are allowable in view of Hellebusch based on the following discussion.

Hellebusch has arms (24, 25) which are pivotally attached to a base (10), but there the similarity to the device of the Applicant ceases. The Examiner has indicated that Hellebusch's bar (34) is the claimed clamp securing member, and that points (35) are the claimed clamp. But the points (35) are not pivotable relative to the arms (24, 25), and they would not hold the fish when the arms are rotated. That is, when the Hellebusch device is rotated from the Fig. 2 position, the points will come out of the fish and leave the fish in the same position. In the device of the Applicant, the clamp carries the fish to the other side and at the same time allows it to be flipped.

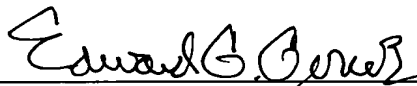
Claims 7-12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as obvious in view of Hellebusch. But as discussed above, Hellebusch does not teach or suggest that the arms can be pivoted with the fish still secured to the clamp while at the same time flipping the fish. In fact, the presence of the block (17) of Hellebusch suggests that there is no intention to flip the fish. Moreover,

Hellebusch teaches a system of hooks to stretch the game which would not necessarily be operable if it were the intention to flip the game.

It is thus believed that claims 1-13 are in condition for allowance, and the issuance of a Notice of Allowance is respectfully submitted.

If any further issues remain after this amendment, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated.

Respectfully submitted,



Edward G. Greive, Reg. No. 24,726
Renner, Kenner, Greive, Bobak, Taylor & Weber
Fourth Floor, First National Tower
Akron, Ohio 44308-1456
Telephone: (330) 376-1242

Attorney for Applicant

December 28, 2004